



Tools for Schools

What is the Tools for Schools program?

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) have teamed up to help provide a free kit that contains all of the information necessary for schools to improve their indoor air quality.
- The actions recommended by the Tools for Schools program should cost the school little or no money. Mini-grants for \$200 are available to help the schools implement the kits. IDEM distributes those funds, which are provided by the U.S. EPA.

Why should your school be concerned with indoor air quality?

- Twenty percent of the U.S. population, nearly 55 million people, spend their days in school.
- Good indoor air quality can contribute to a favorable learning environment for children and better productivity for teachers and staff.
- Poor indoor air quality has been linked to illness and school absence.
- Children with asthma especially suffer if indoor air quality is poor.
 - Nearly one in 13 school-aged children has asthma. The percentage of children with asthma is rising more rapidly in preschool aged children than in any other age group.
 - Accounting for more than 10 million missed school days per year, asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism from a chronic illness.
 - Environmental factors have been known to trigger asthma attacks. Improving the quality of air in schools can reduce the risk of asthma attacks and lower or eliminate the number of missed days by child asthmatics.

What are the benefits of Tools for Schools?

- The Tools for Schools kit can help school officials improve the air quality of schools, reduce absenteeism and sick days for students and staff, and increase productivity.
- The changes to the heating, cooling and ventilation systems of the school reduce deterioration and improve energy efficiency.
- Potential liability is reduced when the school's air is made as safe as possible.

What comes in the Tools for Schools kit?

- Simple-to-follow checklists for teachers, health professionals, administrators and facility managers
- Background information, sample memos and policies
- Recommended indoor air quality management plan
- Appendices covering information such as hiring outside assistance, mold and moisture control, renovation and repair, radon and integrated pest management
- Video training tapes, "Taking Action and Ventilation Basics"

Where can I get more information?

- For more information or to order a Tools for Schools program kit, contact IDEM's Office of Public Policy and Planning at (317) 233-5628 or visit our Web page at www.IN.gov/idem/kids/toolsforschools.html. You can also visit the U.S. EPA's Web page at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools.